## HOUSE BILL 1663

State o	f Washington	69th Legislature	2025	Regular	Session

By Representative Rule

AN ACT Relating to enhancing youth mental health and well-being through advanced training and expansion of the workforce in schools; amending RCW 28A.410.044, 28A.320.280, and 28A.310.235; reenacting and amending RCW 28A.150.260; adding a new section to chapter 28A.310 RCW; and creating a new section.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds that Washington youth require additional support in order to thrive. Washington has 8 the ninth highest school refusal rate in the country, with 30 percent 9 10 of K-12 students missing more than 10 percent of the school year. A 11 significant number of Washington's youth experience high rates of 12 emotional, developmental, or behavioral distress, or thoughts of 13 suicide.

14 The legislature further finds that school social workers are 15 uniquely positioned to contribute to K-12 student safety, address 16 student behavioral health care needs, and support students with 17 individualized education programs. School social workers collaborate 18 with school personnel, families, and community organizations to 19 reduce absenteeism, support student mental health, and create 20 inclusive learning environments that prepare students for success in 21 a diverse society.

1 The legislature further finds that the national association of 2 school social workers recommends a ratio of one school social worker 3 to every 250 students, but that Washington has only one school social 4 worker for every 3,798 students. Washington would need to increase 5 this ratio by 93 percent to meet the national standard.

6 It is therefore the intent of the legislature to increase student 7 access to school social workers through workforce development, 8 collaboration with community organizations, and increased funding.

9 Sec. 2. RCW 28A.410.044 and 2018 c 200 s 3 are each amended to 10 read as follows:

11 (1) A school psychologist is a professional educator who holds a valid school psychologist certification as defined 12 by the professional educator standards board. Pursuant to the national 13 association of school psychologists' model for comprehensive and 14 15 integrated school psychological services, school psychologists 16 deliver services across ten domains of practice. Two domains permeate all areas of service delivery: Data-based decision making; and 17 consultation and collaboration. Five domains encompass direct and 18 indirect services to children and their families: Student-level 19 20 services, interventions, and instructional supports to develop academic skills; student-level interventions and mental health 21 services to develop social and life skills; systems-level school-wide 22 practices to promote learning; systems-level preventive 23 and responsive services; and systems-level family school collaboration 24 services. The three foundational domains include: Knowledge and 25 skills related to diversity in development and learning; research and 26 27 program evaluation; and legal and ethical practice.

(2) (a) A school social worker is a professional in the fields of 28 29 social work and education who holds a valid school social worker 30 certification as defined by the professional educator standards 31 board. The purpose and role of the school social worker is to ((provide)) serve as an integral link between school, home, and 32 community ((in)), helping students achieve academic and social 33 success. This is accomplished by removing barriers and providing 34 services that <u>may</u> include: Mental health ((and academic counseling, 35 support for students and parents, crisis prevention and intervention, 36 professional case management, collaboration with other professionals, 37 38 organizations, and community agencies, and advocacy for students and 39 parents. School social workers work directly with school

1 administrators as well as students and families, at various levels and as part of an interdisciplinary team in the educational system, 2 including at the building, district, and state level. School social 3 workers provide leadership and professional expertise regarding the 4 formation of school discipline policies and procedures, and through 5 6 school-based mental health services, crisis management, the implementation of social-emotional learning, and other support 7 services that impact student academic and social-emotional success. 8 School social workers also facilitate community involvement in the 9 10 schools while advocating for student success)) counseling; crisis intervention; behavioral consultation; trauma-informed care; support 11 and advocacy for students and families; professional case management; 12 13 and developing and implementing individualized education programs and plans developed under section 504 of the federal rehabilitation act 14 15 of 1973.

16 (b) School social workers provide leadership and professional 17 expertise in the development of school discipline policies and procedures, emphasizing best practices. School social workers also 18 19 leverage data to track trends, monitor student progress, and assess the effectiveness of interventions. As trained mental health 20 clinicians, school social workers support implementation of social-21 22 emotional learning and foster supportive school environments for all 23 students.

24 Sec. 3. RCW 28A.320.280 and 2018 c 200 s 2 are each amended to 25 read as follows:

26 school counselor works with developing and leading The а 27 comprehensive guidance and counseling program to focus on the academic, career, personal, and social needs of all students. School 28 29 psychologists carry out special education evaluation duties, among 30 other things. School social workers ((promote and support students' 31 health, academic, and social success with counseling and support, and by providing and coordinating specialized services and resources)) 32 33 have the role and scope explicated in RCW 28A.410.044(2). All of 34 these professionals are also involved in multitiered systems of support for academic and behavioral skills. These professionals focus 35 36 student mental health, work with at-risk and marginalized on 37 students, perform risk assessments, and collaborate with mental 38 health professionals to promote student achievement and create a safe learning environment. In order that school counselors, school social 39

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workers, and <u>school</u> psychologists have the time available to prioritize these functions, in addition to other activities requiring direct student contact, responsibilities such as data input and data tracking should be handled by nonlicensed, noncertified staff, where possible.

6 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 28A.310 7 RCW to read as follows:

8 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this 9 specific purpose, each educational service district may coordinate 10 with:

(1) Local mental health agencies and local school districts to arrange for in-school placements of social worker associates licensed under RCW 18.225.145 and to coordinate clinical supervision for approved supervisors that meet the requirements as defined in rule by the department of health to provide the necessary supervision to the social worker associates;

17 (2) Local school districts and accredited university programs to 18 support masters of social work candidates in obtaining an in-school 19 placement and a conditional educational staff associate certificate 20 as provided by the professional educator standards board; and

(3) Local school districts, accredited university programs, and behavioral health agencies to support postmasters of social work professionals in obtaining an in-school placement. These positions must be coordinated between the educational service district and behavioral health agencies.

26 Sec. 5. RCW 28A.310.235 and 2019 c 295 s 102 are each amended to 27 read as follows:

(1) For the purpose of this section, "educator" means a
 paraeducator, teacher, principal, administrator, superintendent,
 school counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, school
 nurse, school physical therapist, school occupational therapist, or
 school speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

33 (2) An educational service district may employ a person whose 34 duties are to provide to local school districts the following 35 services related to educator recruitment:

36 (a) Serve as a liaison between local school districts and
 37 educator preparation programs, between their region and other regions
 38 in the state, and between the local school districts and agencies

that may be helpful in educator recruitment efforts, including the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the Washington professional educator standards board, the paraeducator board, the student achievement council, the state board for community and technical colleges, the state department of veterans affairs, the state military department, and the workforce training and education coordinating board;

8 (b) Encourage and support local school districts to develop or 9 expand a recruiting Washington teachers program under RCW 10 28A.415.370, a career and technical education careers in education 11 program, or an alternative route teacher certification program under 12 chapter 28A.660 RCW;

13 (c) Provide outreach to community members who may be interested 14 in becoming educators, including high school and college students, 15 subject matter experts, and former military personnel and their 16 spouses;

(d) Support persons interested in becoming educators by providing resources and assistance with navigating transition points on the path to a career in education; ((and))

(e) Provide resources and technical assistance to local school
 districts on best hiring processes and practices; and

22 (f) Support the coordination efforts prescribed under section 4 23 of this act.

(3) A person employed to provide the services described in
subsection (2) of this section must be reflective of, and have an
understanding of, the local community.

27 Sec. 6. RCW 28A.150.260 and 2024 c 262 s 2 and 2024 c 191 s 2 28 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

The purpose of this section is to provide for the allocation of state funding that the legislature deems necessary to support school districts in offering the minimum instructional program of basic education under RCW 28A.150.220. The allocation shall be determined as follows:

34 (1) The governor shall and the superintendent of public 35 instruction may recommend to the legislature a formula for the 36 distribution of a basic education instructional allocation for each 37 common school district.

38 (2)(a) The distribution formula under this section shall be for39 allocation purposes only. Except as may be required under subsections

1 (4) (b) and (c), (5) ((<del>(b) and</del>)) (c) <u>and (d)</u>, (8), and (9) of this section, chapter 28A.155, 28A.165, 28A.180, or 28A.185 RCW, or 2 federal laws and regulations, nothing in this section requires school 3 districts to use basic education instructional funds to implement a 4 particular instructional approach or service. Nothing in this section 5 6 requires school districts to maintain a particular classroom teacherto-student ratio or other staff-to-student ratio or to use allocated 7 funds to pay for particular types or classifications of staff. 8 Nothing in this section entitles an individual teacher to a 9 particular teacher planning period. 10

(b) To promote transparency in state funding allocations, the 11 12 superintendent of public instruction must report state per-pupil allocations for each school district for the general apportionment, 13 special education, learning assistance, transitional bilingual, 14 15 highly capable, and career and technical education programs. The 16 superintendent must report this information in a user-friendly format 17 on the main page of the office's website. School districts must 18 include a link to the superintendent's per-pupil allocations report 19 on the main page of the school district's website. In addition, the budget documents published by the legislature for the enacted omnibus 20 21 operating appropriations act must report statewide average per-pupil 22 allocations for general apportionment and the categorical programs 23 listed in this subsection.

(3) (a) To the extent the technical details of the formula have 24 25 been adopted by the legislature and except when specifically provided as a school district allocation, the distribution formula for the 26 basic education instructional allocation shall be based on minimum 27 28 staffing and nonstaff costs the legislature deems necessary to support instruction and operations in prototypical schools serving 29 high, middle, and elementary school students as provided in this 30 31 section. The use of prototypical schools for the distribution formula 32 does not constitute legislative intent that schools should be 33 operated or structured in a similar fashion as the prototypes. Prototypical schools illustrate the level of resources needed to 34 operate a school of a particular size with particular types and grade 35 levels of students using commonly understood terms and inputs, such 36 as class size, hours of instruction, and various categories of school 37 staff. It is the intent that the funding allocations to school 38 39 districts be adjusted from the school prototypes based on the actual 40 number of annual average full-time equivalent students in each grade

1 level at each school in the district and not based on the grade-level 2 configuration of the school to the extent that data is available. The 3 allocations shall be further adjusted from the school prototypes with 4 minimum allocations for small schools and to reflect other factors 5 identified in the omnibus appropriations act.

6 (b) For the purposes of this section, prototypical schools are 7 defined as follows:

8 (i) A prototypical high school has 600 average annual full-time 9 equivalent students in grades nine through 12;

10 (ii) A prototypical middle school has 432 average annual full-11 time equivalent students in grades seven and eight; and

(iii) A prototypical elementary school has 400 average annualfull-time equivalent students in grades kindergarten through six.

(4) (a) (i) The minimum allocation for each level of prototypical school shall be based on the number of full-time equivalent classroom teachers needed to provide instruction over the minimum required annual instructional hours under RCW 28A.150.220 and provide at least one teacher planning period per school day, and based on the following general education average class size of full-time equivalent students per teacher:

21		General	_ educ	ation
22		average	class	s size
23	Grades K-3		•	17.00
24	Grade 4	• • • •		27.00
25	Grades 5-6		• •	27.00
26	Grades 7-8		• •	28.53
27	Grades 9-12	••••	•••	28.74

(ii) The minimum class size allocation for each prototypical high 28 school shall also provide for enhanced funding for class size 29 reduction for two laboratory science classes within grades nine 30 through 12 per full-time equivalent high school student multiplied by 31 a laboratory science course factor of 0.0833, based on the number of 32 full-time equivalent classroom teachers needed to provide instruction 33 34 over the minimum required annual instructional hours in RCW 35 28A.150.220, and providing at least one teacher planning period per school day: 36

37																L	abo	rat	lor	су з	sci	ence
38																a	ver	age	e c	cla	SS	size
39	Grades	9-12.	• •	•	•	•••	•	•	•		•	•	 •	• •	•	•		•	•	•	1	9.98
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(b) (i) Beginning September 1, 2019, funding for average K-3 class 1 2 sizes in this subsection (4) may be provided only to the extent of, 3 and proportionate to, the school district's demonstrated actual class 4 size in grades K-3, up to the funded class sizes. (ii) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall 5 develop rules to implement this subsection (4)(b). 6 7 (c) (i) The minimum allocation for each prototypical middle and high school shall also provide for full-time equivalent classroom 8 9 teachers based on the following number of full-time equivalent 10 students per teacher in career and technical education: 11 Career and technical 12 education average 13 class size 14 Approved career and technical education offered at 15 23.00 16 Skill center programs meeting the standards established 17 by the office of the superintendent of public 18 19.00 19 (ii) Funding allocated under this subsection (4)(c) is subject to 20 RCW 28A.150.265. 21 In addition, the omnibus appropriations act shall at (d) а 22 minimum specify: 23 (i) A high-poverty average class size in schools where more than 24 50 percent of the students are eligible for free and reduced-price 25 meals; and 26 (ii) A specialty average class size for advanced placement and 27 international baccalaureate courses. 28 (5) (a) The minimum allocation for each level of prototypical school shall include allocations for the following types of staff in 29 30 addition to classroom teachers: 31 Elementary Middle High 32 School School School 33 Principals, assistant principals, and other certificated building-level 34 administrators. 1.253 1.353 1.880 35 Teacher-librarians, a function that includes information literacy, technology, 36 and media to support school library media programs. 0.663 0.519 0.523

1	Paraeducators, including any aspect of educational instructional services					
2	provided by classified employees.	1.012	0.776	0.728		
3	Office support and other noninstructional aides.	2.088	2.401	3.345		
4	Custodians	1.657	1.942	2.965		
5	Nurses	0.585	0.888	0.824		
6	Social workers	0.311	0.088	0.127		
7	Psychologists	0.104	0.024	0.049		
8	Counselors	0.993	1.716	3.039		
9	Classified staff providing student and staff safety.	0.079	0.092	0.141		
10	Parent involvement coordinators.	0.0825	0.00	0.00		
11	(b) In addition to the allocations pro	vided un	der (a)	of this		
12	subsection, the following staffing units			ided to		
13	qualifying schools, as defined under subsec		(a)(ii)	of this		
14	section:					
15		Elementary	Middle	High		
16		<u>School</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>School</u>		
17	Social workers.	<u>0.060</u>	<u>0.060</u>	<u>0.060</u>		
18						
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35 student and staff safety, parent involvement coordinators, and other 36 school district employees and contractors who provide physical, 1 social, and emotional support to students as defined by the
2 superintendent.

3 ((<del>(c)</del>)) <u>(d)</u> The superintendent shall develop rules that require 4 school districts to use the additional funding provided under (a) of 5 this subsection to support increased staffing, prevent layoffs, or 6 increase salaries for the following staff types in the 2024-25 school 7 year: Paraeducators, office support, and noninstructional aides. The 8 superintendent shall collect data from school districts on how the 9 increased allocations are used.

10 (6) (a) The minimum staffing allocation for each school district 11 to provide district-wide support services shall be allocated per one 12 thousand annual average full-time equivalent students in grades K-12 13 as follows:

14		S	Sta	aff	Ē	er	1,000
15			F	<-1	.2	st	udents
16	Technology	•	•	•	•	•	0.628
17	Facilities, maintenance, and grounds	•	•	•	•		1.813
18	Warehouse, laborers, and mechanics	•	•	•	•		0.332

19 (b) The minimum allocation of staff units for each school 20 district to support certificated and classified staffing of central 21 administration shall be 5.30 percent of the staff units generated 22 under subsections (4)(a) and (5) of this section and (a) of this 23 subsection.

(7) The distribution formula shall include staffing allocations
 to school districts for career and technical education and skill
 center administrative and other school-level certificated staff, as
 specified in the omnibus appropriations act.

(8) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the minimum allocation for each school district shall include allocations per annual average full-time equivalent student for the following materials, supplies, and operating costs as provided in the 2023-24 school year, after which the allocations shall be adjusted annually for inflation as specified in the omnibus appropriations act:

34	Per annual	average
35	full-time equivalent	student
36	in gra	des K-12
37	Technology	\$178.98
38	Utilities and insurance	\$430.26
39	Curriculum and textbooks	\$164.48
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1 2 \$22.65 Instructional professional development for certificated and 3 \$28.94 4 \$206.22 5 6 Security and central office administration. . . . . . . . \$146.37 7 (b) In addition to the amounts provided in (a) of this subsection, beginning in the 2023-24 school year, the omnibus 8 9 appropriations act shall provide the following minimum allocation for 10 each annual average full-time equivalent student in grades nine through 12 for the following materials, supplies, and operating 11 costs, to be adjusted annually for inflation: 12 13 Per annual average 14 full-time equivalent student 15 in grades 9-12 16 \$44.05 17 \$48.06 18 \$94.07 19 \$6.05 20 Instructional professional development for certificated and 21 22 (c) The increased allocation amount of \$21 per annual average 23 full-time equivalent student for materials, supplies, and operating 24 costs provided under (a) of this subsection is intended to address 25 growing costs in the enumerated categories and may not be expended 26 for any other purpose. 27 (9) In addition to the amounts provided in subsection (8) of this section and subject to RCW 28A.150.265, the omnibus appropriations 28 act shall provide an amount based on full-time equivalent student 29 30 enrollment in each of the following: Exploratory career and technical education courses 31 (a) for 32 students in grades seven through 12; Preparatory career and technical education courses 33 (b) for students in grades nine through 12 offered in a high school; and 34 35 (C) Preparatory career and technical education courses for students in grades 11 and 12 offered through a skill center. 36 (10) In addition to the allocations otherwise provided under this 37 38 section, amounts shall be provided to support the following programs and services: 39

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1 (a) (i) To provide supplemental instruction and services for students who are not meeting academic standards through the learning 2 3 assistance program under RCW 28A.165.005 through 28A.165.065, allocations shall be based on the greater of either: The district 4 percentage of students in kindergarten through grade 12 who were 5 6 eligible for free or reduced-price meals for the school year immediately preceding the district's participation, in whole or part, 7 United States department of agriculture's community 8 in the eligibility provision, or the district percentage of students in 9 grades K-12 who were eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the 10 prior school year. The minimum allocation for the program shall, 11 12 except as provided in (a)(iii) of this subsection, provide for each level of prototypical school resources to provide, on a statewide 13 14 average, 2.3975 hours per week in extra instruction with a class size 15 of 15 learning assistance program students per teacher.

16 (ii) In addition to funding allocated under (a)(i) of this subsection, to provide supplemental instruction and services for 17 18 students who are not meeting academic standards in qualifying 19 schools. A qualifying school, except as provided in (a)(iv) of this subsection, means a school in which the three-year rolling average of 20 21 the prior year total annual average enrollment that qualifies for 22 free or reduced-price meals equals or exceeds 50 percent or more of 23 its total annual average enrollment. A school continues to meet the definition of a qualifying school if the school: Participates in the 24 25 United States department of agriculture's community eligibility provision; and met the definition of a qualifying school in the year 26 immediately preceding their participation. The minimum allocation for 27 28 this additional high poverty-based allocation must provide for each 29 level of prototypical school resources to provide, on a statewide average, 1.1 hours per week in extra instruction with a class size of 30 31 15 learning assistance program students per teacher, under RCW 32 28A.165.055, school districts must distribute the high poverty-based 33 allocation to the schools that generated the funding allocation.

(iii) For the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years, allocations under (a)(i) of this subsection for school districts providing meals at no charge to students under RCW 28A.235.135 that are not participating, in whole or in part, in the United States department of agriculture's community eligibility provision shall be based on the school district percentage of students in grades K-12 who were eligible for free or 1 reduced-price meals in school years 2019-20 through 2022-23 or the 2 prior school year, whichever is greatest.

3 (iv) For the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years, a school providing 4 meals at no charge to students under RCW 28A.235.135 that is not 5 participating in the department of agriculture's community 6 eligibility provision continues to meet the definition of a 7 qualifying school under (a)(ii) of this subsection if the school met 8 the definition during one year of the 2019-20 through 2022-23 school 9 years, or in the prior school year.

(b) (i) To provide supplemental instruction and services for 10 11 students whose primary language is other than English, allocations 12 shall be based on the head count number of students in each school who are eligible for and enrolled in the transitional bilingual 13 instruction program under RCW 28A.180.010 through 28A.180.080. The 14 minimum allocation for each level of prototypical school shall 15 16 provide resources to provide, on a statewide average, 4.7780 hours per week in extra instruction for students in grades kindergarten 17 18 through six and 6.7780 hours per week in extra instruction for students in grades seven through 12, with 15 transitional bilingual 19 instruction program students per teacher. Notwithstanding other 20 21 provisions of this subsection (10), the actual per-student allocation 22 may be scaled to provide a larger allocation for students needing 23 more intensive intervention and a commensurate reduced allocation for students needing less intensive intervention, as detailed in the 24 25 omnibus appropriations act.

26 (ii) To provide supplemental instruction and services for students who have exited the transitional bilingual program, 27 28 allocations shall be based on the head count number of students in each school who have exited the transitional bilingual program within 29 the previous two years based on their performance on the English 30 31 proficiency assessment and are eligible for and enrolled in the 32 transitional bilingual instruction program under RCW 28A.180.040(1)(g). The minimum allocation for each prototypical 33 school shall provide resources to provide, on a statewide average, 34 3.0 hours per week in extra instruction with 15 exited students per 35 36 teacher.

37 (c) To provide additional allocations to support programs for 38 highly capable students under RCW 28A.185.010 through 28A.185.030, 39 allocations shall be based on 5.0 percent of each school district's 40 full-time equivalent basic education enrollment. The minimum

1 allocation for the programs shall provide resources to provide, on a 2 statewide average, 2.1590 hours per week in extra instruction with 3 fifteen highly capable program students per teacher.

4 (11) The allocations under subsections (4)(a), (5), (6), and (8)
5 of this section shall be enhanced as provided under RCW 28A.150.390
6 on an excess cost basis to provide supplemental instructional
7 resources for students with disabilities.

8 (12)(a) For the purposes of allocations for prototypical high 9 schools and middle schools under subsections (4) and (10) of this 10 section that are based on the percent of students in the school who 11 are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, the actual percent of 12 such students in a school shall be adjusted by a factor identified in 13 the omnibus appropriations act to reflect underreporting of free and 14 reduced-price meal eligibility among middle and high school students.

(b) Allocations or enhancements provided under subsections (4), (7), and (9) of this section for exploratory and preparatory career and technical education courses shall be provided only for courses approved by the office of the superintendent of public instruction under chapter 28A.700 RCW.

(13) (a) This formula for distribution of basic education funds shall be reviewed biennially by the superintendent and governor. The recommended formula shall be subject to approval, amendment or rejection by the legislature.

(b) In the event the legislature rejects the distribution formula recommended by the governor, without adopting a new distribution formula, the distribution formula for the previous school year shall remain in effect.

28 (c) The enrollment of any district shall be the annual average number of full-time equivalent students and part-time students as 29 provided in RCW 28A.150.350, enrolled on the first school day of each 30 31 month, including students who are in attendance pursuant to RCW 32 28A.335.160 and 28A.225.250 who do not reside within the servicing school district. The definition of full-time equivalent student shall 33 be determined by rules of the superintendent of public instruction 34 and shall be included as part of the superintendent's biennial budget 35 request. The definition shall be based on the minimum instructional 36 hour offerings required under RCW 28A.150.220. Any revision of the 37 present definition shall not take effect until approved by the house 38 39 ways and means committee and the senate ways and means committee.

1 (d) The office of financial management shall make a monthly 2 review of the superintendent's reported full-time equivalent students 3 in the common schools in conjunction with RCW 43.62.050.

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